A NEW ASPIDOBOTHRID TREMATODE FROM LESSEUR'S TERRAPIN

(A preliminary note)

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COTYLASPIS COKERI n. sp.

In our investigation of the parasites of fresh water turtles secured from the Mississippi River at the Fairport (Iowa) Biological Station, we have found occurring rather commonly, tho in small numbers, in the small intestine of Lesseur's terrapin, a species of trematode belonging to the family *Aspidobothridæ*. Tho large numbers of several species of both soft and hard shell turtles were examined, this aspidobothrid was found only in Lesseur's terrapin. Clams taken from the same locality were also examined but were found uninfected.

These aspidobothrids, when alive, are light red in color. The body resembles a miniature turtle, with its anterior slender, very active and distensible neck region attached to the dorsal and anterior portion of the much thickened oval body region. The neck is as long as the body. The entire worm measures 1.2mm. to 1.5mm. long by 0.6mm. wide. The body proper is divided into a dorsal and ventral region. The ventral region of the body is entirely covered by the large ventral shield which is in turn divided into three longitudinal rows, one median and two lateral, of acetabula or suckerlets of almost equal size and of the same shape. Each of the marginal rows has ten acetabula while the median row has twelve, ten of equal size and shape and a single smaller suckerlet at each end of the row. The margin of the vetral disc is markedly crenate. The number of acetabula is constant (32) in the 100 specimens examined with one exception in which there were 11 suckerlets in the marginal rows and 13 in the median row, 35 in all. Twenty-two marginal sense organs are present, appearing as small, clear, oval areas located at the outer marginal end of each ridge which separates two contiguous acetabula. Eye spots were not found.

The internal characters are briefly as follows: Mouth subterminal at anterior end of neck region; buccal disc absent but noticeable dorsal overhang or snout-like lip present; mouth cavity funnel shaped. Pharynx present, muscular halves bean shaped. Esophagus a narrow short tube widening to form a simple sac-like intestine extending almost the entire length of the body. Ovary

oval, solid anterior and lateral to testis in middle region of body. Shell gland oval, somewhat diffuse, as large as, and posterior to ovary. Laurer's canal and seminal receptacle absent. Vitelline glands large ascini, alternately arranged, lateral, in anterior region of body but uniting in median field of posterior region to form a u-shape mass. Uterus extends from level of ovary by a few loose coils and a terminal straight and thick-walled vagina to genital atrium. Genital atrium a short but wide cavity opening thru genital pore on the ventral surface of neck region at level of anterior margin of ventral shield. Testis single, large, solid, spherical in posterior half of body in median field. Cirrus pouch anterior, large and pear shaped, opening into genital atrium. Excretory pore prominent, dorsal in median line at posterior end of body. Eggs rarely found.

The internal organs in general correspond in number and arrangement to that given for the genus *Cotylaspis* Leidy (Nickerson: 1902) to which genus this form undoubtedly belongs. Two species of this genus *C. lenoiri* Poirier 1886 from the intestine of a turtle, *Tetrathyra* from Senegal and *C. insignis* Leidy 1857, from the mantle cavity of clams, *Unionidæ* in North America have been described. The specimens from Lesseur's terrapin differ both in their external and internal characters from both of these species tho they more closely resemble *C. insignis* Leidy. The description given by Leidy (1857) (1858) is unfortunately so meager as to render a detailed comparison impossible. Osborn's (1904) description is more detailed and adequate. Our work, now about completed, involving a detailed study, by means of serial sections of external and internal characters and also a comparative study of a large number of specimens, will be published in full later. Thru this study we hope to be able to settle the generic and specific value of certain aspidobothrid characters now in dispute.

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